

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/AMLONON/AML

APPROVED BY SCA/SCS/RDBELT

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P 202005Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WRO/WASHINGTON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 123990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CFED

SUBJECT: FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECKS

FOR: EVERETT L. CAUDILL

1. DEPT RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY BEIRUT: QUOTE AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, MAIL SERVICE IN LEBANON COMPLETELY BROKEN DOWN. SOCIAL SECURITY AND VA CHECKS RECIPIENTS WHO ARE ABLE THEREFORE EITHER TO PICK UP CHECKS AT EMBASSY OR GIVE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION TO OTHER RECIPIENTS TO PICK UP CHECKS FOR THEM. HOWEVER THERE REMAINS A NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY SINCE END OF 1975.

2. SERIOUS PROBLEM HAS ARISEN IN THAT SINCE LATTER CATEGORY OF RECIPIENTS HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMPLETE ANNUAL SSA-7162 FORM OR VA 21-6876 SSA AND VA DISCONTINUED SENDING THEIR CHECKS ALTHOUGH EMBASSY BELIEVES VAST MAJORITY OF RECIPIENTS REMAIN IN LEBANON AND ARE OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE.

3. SINCE IN PERIODS OF RELATIVE QUIET RECIPIENTS OFTEN MANAGE TO ARRIVE AT EMBASSY, EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT DEPT. DISCUSS WITH SSA AND VA POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING TO SEND CHECKS WITH PROVISION THAT EMBASSY RELEASE THEM ONLY UPON

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RECEIPT OF SIGNED SSA 7162 OR VA 21-6876.

4. IN VIEW OF EXTREME HUMANITARIAN ISSUES INVOLVED, HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE SSA AND VA TO AGREE THIS PROPOSAL. MANY BENEFICIARIES SUFFERING FINANCIAL NEED, COMPOUNDING EXISTING EXTREME HARDSHIPS OF LIVING IN STRIFE TORN LEBANON. EMBASSY URGES ALL EFFORTS TO OBTAIN APPROVAL OUR PROPOSAL OR MAKE OTHER SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO PERMIT CONTINUATION OF CHECK ISSUANCES. PLEASE ADVISE. UNQUOTE.

5. UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS DEPT FEELS ABOVE RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE STRONGLY CONSIDERED. SSA HAS AGREED WITH THE DEPT TO PROCEED AS RECOMMENDED BY BEIRUT. IF VA FORSEES NO DIFFICULTY IN FOLLOWING THRU WITH SUGGESTION PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY TELEGRAPHICALLY, WITH COPY TO DEPT. LAST PARA OF MESSAGE SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS: "THIS MESSAGE HAS THE CONCURRANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE". ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by mendozsm>; APPROVED <10 JUN 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** FEDERAL BENEFIT CHECKS FOR: EVERETT L. CAUDILL  
**TAGS:** CFED  
**To:** WRO/WASHINGTON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006